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# The US will send a carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean in support of Israel

By Tara Copp  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday he has ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel after the attack by Hamas that has left more than 1,000 dead on both sides. Americans were reported to be among those killed and missing.

The USS Gerald R. Ford, the Navy's newest and most advanced aircraft carrier, and its approximately 5,000 sailors and deck of warplanes will be accompanied by cruisers and destroyers in a show of force that is meant to be ready to respond to anything, from possibly interdicting additional weapons from reaching Hamas and conducting surveillance.

The large deployment, which also includes a host of ships and warplanes, underscores the concern that the United States has in trying to deter the conflict from growing.



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The USS Gerald R. Ford, one of the world's largest aircraft carriers, arrives in Halifax on Oct. 28, 2022. (Andrew Vaughan/The Canadian Press via AP, File)

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## Continued from Front

But the Israeli government formally declared war Sunday and gave the green light for "significant military steps" to retaliate against Hamas. Preliminary reports indicate that at least four American citizens were killed in the attacks and an additional seven were missing and unaccounted for, according to a U.S. official. The numbers were in flux and could change

as a fuller accounting is compiled., according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss initial reports received by the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. Most, if not all, of those reported dead or missing are dual U.S.-Israeli citizens, the official said. Along with the Ford the U.S. is sending the cruiser USS Normandy, destroyers USS Thomas Hudner, USS Ramage, USS Carney, and USS Roosevelt and

the U.S. is augmenting Air Force F-35, F-15, F-16, and A-10 fighter aircraft squadrons in the region. "The U.S. maintains ready forces globally to further reinforce this deterrence posture if required," Austin said in a statement. In addition, the Biden administration "will be rapidly providing the Israel Defense Forces with additional equipment and resources, including munitions. The first security assistance will begin moving



An F/A-18 E is launched from the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford during flight deck operations on Oct. 5, 2022, off the Virginia Coast.

today and arriving in the coming days," Austin said. The Norfolk, Virginia-based carrier strike group was already in the Mediterranean. Last week it was conducting naval exercises with Italy in the Ionian Sea. The carrier is in its first full deployment. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a telephone call Sunday, discussed "the taking of hostages by Hamas terrorists, including entire families, the elderly, and young children," according to a White House statement describing their conversation. Biden stressed that all countries "must stand united in the face of such brutal atrocities." The president updated Netanyahu on U.S. diplomatic efforts and said additional assistance for Israeli forces was on the way, with more to come in the days ahead, the White House said. They also discussed ways "to ensure that no enemies of Israel believe they can or should seek advantage from the current

situation." On Capitol Hill, the House is preparing a bipartisan resolution that says it "stands with Israel" and condemns "Hamas' brutal war." The resolution from the leaders of the House Foreign Affairs Committee is expected to be among the first items considered for voting once the House elects a new speaker. "Now is the time to show the world the United States firmly stands with our friend and ally Israel in our condemnation of this heinous attack by Iran-backed terrorists," said the committee chairman, Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas. House business is currently at a standstill in after the historic ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. Majority Republicans plan to kick off the selection process, in private, at a Tuesday evening forum where candidates can address their colleagues. The real contest could come as soon as Wednesday when the House next convenes. □



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# A workforce crisis is damaging families' access to therapies for babies with developmental delays

By Claire Savage  
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Alexander watches Paw Patrol with fervor, bowls his baby brother over with hugs and does everything with gusto. What the 3-year-old West Chicago toddler can't do yet is speak more than a few words. His balance is wobbly and he isn't able to let his preschool teachers know when he's hurt or scared.

When his mother, Hilda Garcia, had him tested, the youngster qualified for five therapies through a U.S. program dedicated to treating developmental delays in babies and toddlers — treatment designed to help Alexander develop the tools he needs to thrive. The relief she felt in identifying what he needed was short-lived.

The federally mandated Early Intervention program is plagued by chronic staffing shortages nationwide, leaving thousands of desperate parents frustrated: They know their children need support, they're aware of proven therapies that could make a difference, but they have to wait for months to get the help they need.

After 14 months of phone calls, hours of research and pushing herself to the limit with work and childcare, Garcia finally landed an in-person early intervention appointment, but even then she couldn't get Alexander all the therapies he needed. She tears up as she recounts how overwhelming the fight to secure access has been.

"I didn't have any support," she said.

'The earlier, the better'

Early Intervention was created in 1986 to address developmental delays in children like Alexander as soon as possible. About one in six children in the U.S. has at least one developmental disability or other developmental delay, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Since all U.S. states and territories accept federal



**Early Intervention speech pathologist Megan Sanders works with 2-year-old Aria Faulkner as parents Lindsey and Kendrick Faulkner look on during a therapy session at the Faulkner's home in Peoria, Ill., Aug. 15, 2023. (AP Photo/Ron Johnson)**

funding for Early Intervention, they are obligated to provide services to kids who qualify under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

But providers are scarce in almost all states. Some children wait months or years for the care they need, and many age out of the program before they access any services at all.

The COVID-19 pandemic worsened chronic staffing shortages, in part because many providers didn't want to risk infection by entering families' homes, even when restrictions on in-person visits were lifted, according to Maureen Greer, the executive director of the Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association, which supports the Early Intervention system nationwide.

For similar reasons, families were also less likely to request in-person help during the pandemic. But now the number of children seeking services has rebounded, and states are struggling to find the staff to meet the needs of families with young children with disabilities, according to Katy Neas of the U.S. Department of Education.

Service delays in Illinois, where Alexander lives, nearly doubled in 2022, according to Chicago-

based early childhood advocacy organization Start Early. Waitlists — technically not allowed since all eligible kids are entitled to Early Intervention — have increased dramatically and thousands of providers have left the field, according to the Illinois Department of Human Services.

When children turn 3, the responsibility for providing special education services shifts from Early Intervention to school districts. But those systems are understaffed and booked up, too, according to speech-language pathologist Sarah Ziemba, an Early Intervention provider in Peoria, Illinois.

Waiting means skipping precious months of development, while acting early saves money on special education and other services later in life.

"Research really supports that the earlier, the better. And so when we miss those opportunities to help them at those younger ages, sometimes we are limiting their potential into adulthood," said Ziemba.

Families with private insurance can opt to pay for therapy appointments outside the Early Intervention program, but those without the means can be left behind, according to Ziemba.

"In a way, Early Intervention is contributing to some social inequity," she explained.

Research supports her assessment. A report published this year by the National Institute for Early Education Research found that Asian, Hispanic and Black children are less likely to receive Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education services than white non-Hispanic children.

"For Black children, the disparities in access to services are especially large and cannot plausibly be explained by differences in need," the report says.

Income also plays a role, said lead researcher Allison Friedman-Krauss.

"Poorer states are serving a lower percentage of children, so really suggesting that there is a problem there," Friedman-Krauss said.

But there is no way to attract more providers without better wages, Ziemba explained. Early Intervention providers in Illinois are government contractors, meaning they get no health benefits or paid time off, and they can effectively double their salaries by working in other settings such as hospitals, schools or nursing homes.

"People are just done with it, and it has gotten worse even in the last two months," Ziemba said in late July. "I really feel like we're kind of seeing the implosion of the whole program."

As families lose access to the free or reduced-cost therapies, pressure builds on schools to pick up the slack, but they're short on special education teachers, too.

"In the long term, we're seeing kids fall farther and farther behind," said Ziemba, who has done this work for nearly 25 years.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a budget in June giving Early Intervention providers a 10% raise. That helps, Ziemba said, but likely won't make up for the impact of inflation and may not be enough to slow the steady exodus of workers. She and another provider say wages were stagnant for years.

In July, the administration announced a retention program designed to reward tenured Early Intervention providers, interpreters and service coordinators with payments of up to \$1,300 to stay in the field.

"We remain committed to giving our service providers the support and resources they deserve for caring for our state's children," said Alex Gough, a spokesperson for the governor's office.

The impact therapy can have is palpable. Lindsey Faulkner, a mother of four living in Peoria, got in-person speech therapy sessions for her 2-year-old daughter, Aria, within a month of her referral. She raves about the difference she has seen in her child after a year of working with therapist Megan Sanders.

"She was an entirely different kid a year ago," Faulkner said.

Early on in their sessions, Aria zoomed around the room. Now, Aria can sit and engage with Sanders for most of the session. □



# California governor vetoes bill that would have banned caste discrimination

By Deepa Bharath  
Associated Press

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — Gov. Gavin Newsom vetoed a bill Saturday that would have made California the first U.S. state to outlaw caste-based discrimination.

Caste is a division of people related to birth or descent. Those at the lowest strata of the caste system, known as Dalits, have been pushing for legal protections in California and beyond. They say it is necessary to protect them from bias in housing, education and in the tech sector — where they hold key roles.

Earlier this year, Seattle became the first U.S. city to add caste to its anti-discrimination laws. On Sept. 28, Fresno became the second U.S. city and the first in California to prohibit discrimination based on caste by adding caste and indigeneity to its municipal code.

In his message Newsom called the bill “unnecessary,” explaining that California “already prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, and other characteristics, and state



California Gov. Gavin Newsom speaks in Sacramento, Calif., Jan. 10, 2023. (AP Photo/José Luis Villegas, File)

law specifies that these civil rights protections shall be liberally construed.”

“Because discrimination based on caste is already prohibited under these existing categories, this bill is unnecessary,” he said in the statement.

A United Nations report in 2016 said at least 250 million people worldwide still face caste discrimination in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Pacific regions, as well as in various diaspora communities. Caste systems are found among Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Jains, Muslims and Sikhs.

Proponents of the bill launched a hunger strike in early September pushing for the law’s passage. During their campaign, many

Californians have come forward with stories of discrimination in the workplace, housing and education. Opponents, including some Hindu groups, called the proposed legislation “unconstitutional” and have said it would unfairly target Hindus and people of Indian descent. The issue caused deep divisions in the Indian American community. Hundreds on both sides came to Sacramento to testify at committee hearings in the state senate and assembly.

Thenmozhi Soundararajan, executive director of Equality Labs, the Oakland-based Dalit rights group that has been leading the movement to end caste discrimination nationwide,

said she still views this moment as a victory for caste-oppressed people who have “organized and built amazing power and awareness on this issue.”

“We made history conducting the first advocacy days, caravans, and hunger strike for caste equity,” she said. “We made the world aware that caste exists in the U.S. and our people need a remedy from this violence. A testament to our organizing is in Newsom’s veto where he acknowledges that caste is currently covered. So while we wipe our tears and grieve, know that we are not defeated.”

The Hindu American Foundation and Coalition of Hindus of North America claimed Newsom’s veto as a victory for their advocacy efforts.

“With the stroke of his pen, Governor Newsom has averted a civil rights and constitutional disaster that would have put a target on hundreds of thousands of Californians simply because of their ethnicity or their religious identity, as well as create a slippery slope of facially discriminatory laws,” said Samir Kalra, the Hindu American Foundation’s managing direc-

tor.

In March, state Sen. Aisha Wahab, the first Muslim and Afghan American elected to the California Legislature, introduced the bill. The California law would have included caste as a sub-category under ethnicity — a protected category under the state’s anti-discrimination laws.

Nirmal Singh, a Bakersfield resident and member of Californians for Caste Equity, said the introduction of this bill “represents a shifting tide in California to understand caste-based discrimination.” Singh also represents Ravidassia community, many of whom are Dalits with roots in Punjab, India.

“The fact that caste-oppressed people were given a platform to stand up for our basic human rights is a huge win in and of itself,” he said.

Earlier this week, Republican state Sens. Brian Jones and Shannon Grove called on Newsom to veto the bill, which they said will “not only target and racially profile South Asian Californians, but will put other California residents and businesses at risk and jeopardize our state’s innovative edge.” □

# Trump asks Iowans to help him ‘win big’ in 2024 caucuses to set the tone for the general election

By Thomas Beaumont  
Associated Press

**CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa (AP)** — Donald Trump on Saturday called for a show of strength in Iowa, arguing before big audiences that dominating in the Republican presidential caucuses in January would signal to voters around the country his strength in the November election next year.

“We have to win big,” Trump told about 2,500 in a downtown Cedar Rapids hotel ballroom on his second of stops, part of a fall push to lock in supporters. “I think we’re in great shape in the primary. But it sets a

tone for the general election.”

Trump’s afternoon stops in Waterloo and Cedar Rapids were his third and fourth in a little more than two weeks, part of a stepped-up campaign schedule as the opening contest for the 2024 Republican nomination approaches. Late-summer polls of likely GOP caucus attendees showed Trump well ahead of his opponents.

Trump, who has drawn big audiences to eastern Iowa events in recent weeks, is expected to return again in mid-October, as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis hopes



Former President Donald Trump arrives at a commit to caucus rally, Saturday, Oct. 7, 2023, in Waterloo, Iowa. (AP Photo/Charlie Neibergall)

to reignite attention with a stepped-up Iowa cam-

paign and as former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley

seeks to seize on new interest since the two GOP presidential debates with a built-out Iowa operation.

Trump drew 1,700 people in Waterloo for an event aimed at encouraging attendees to pledge to support him in the caucuses, which are scheduled for Jan. 15. Hundreds more people waited outside, a sign of his advantage in the state and nationally.

The former president blamed President Joe Biden for Hamas’ surprise attack on Israel, alleging Biden had demonstrated weakness that emboldened U.S. adversaries. □



# 'Without water, there is no life': Drought in Brazil's Amazon is sharpening fears for the future

By Edmar Barros  
Associated Press

**MANAUS, Brazil (AP)** — Communities dependent on the Amazon rainforest's waterways are stranded without supply of fuel, food or filtered water. Dozens of river dolphins perished and washed up on shore. And thousands of lifeless fish float on the water's surface.

These are just the first grim visions of extreme drought sweeping across Brazil's Amazon. The historically low water levels have affected hundreds of thousands of people and wildlife and, with experts predicting the drought could last until early 2024, the problems stand to intensify.

Raimundo Silva do Carmo, 67, makes his living as a fisherman, but these days has been struggling to simply find water. Like most rural residents in Brazil's Amazon, do Carmo typically retrieves water untreated from the biome's abundant waterways. On Thursday morning, he was making his fourth trip of the day to fill a plastic bucket from a well dug into the cracked bed of Lake Puraquequara, just east of Amazonas state's capital Manaus.

Joaquim Mendes da Silva, a 73-year-old ship carpenter



**Joaquim Mendes da Silva, 73, walks with his dog on the dry bed of Puraquequara lake amid a drought, in Manaus, Amazonas state, Brazil, Oct. 5, 2023. He said this drought is the worst he can recall. (AP Photo/Edmar Barros, File**

who has lived by the same lake for 43 years, said this drought is the worst he can recall. Area children stopped going to school a month ago because getting there by river became impossible.

Eight Brazilian states recorded the lowest rainfall in the period from July to September in over 40 years, according to CEMADEN, Brazil's disaster warning center. The drought has affected most of the main rivers in the Amazon, the world's largest basin, which accounts for 20% of the planet's fresh water.

And as of Friday, 42 of 62 municipalities in Amazonas had declared a state of emergency. Some 250,000 people have been af-

ected by the drought so far, and that number may double by year's end, according to the state's civil defense authority.

In the Auati-Parana Extractive Reserve, about 450 miles west of Lake Puraquequara, over 300 riverine families are struggling to get food and other supplies. Only small canoes with reduced cargo can manage the trip to the closest city, and picking a route through shallow water has pushed travel time from nine hours to 14. Moreover, canals to the lakes where they fish for pirarucu, the Amazon's largest fish and their primary source of income, have dried up, and carrying fish that weigh as much as 200 kilograms

(about 440 pounds) along trails would be extremely burdensome.

Dry spells are part of the Amazon's cyclical weather pattern, with lighter rainfall from May to October for most of the rainforest. That already low rainfall is being further reduced this year by two climate phenomena: El Niño — the natural warming of surface waters in the Equatorial Pacific region — and the warming of northern tropical Atlantic Ocean waters, said Ana Paula Cunha, a CEMADEN researcher.

Global warming, driven by the burning of fossil fuels, is the backdrop of these intensified phenomena. Rising temperatures increase the likelihood of extreme weather, although attribution of specific events to climate change is complex and requires in-depth study. Still, as global temperatures continue to rise and the effects of climate change become more severe, the drought and its devastating consequences may be a glimpse into a bleak future, experts say.

Average global temperatures soared to a record in September. Crushing heat waves have swept across large swathes of Brazil these past months, though

it was winter. In its southern state of Rio Grande do Sul, devastating floods killed dozens.

Droughts have become more frequent in the Amazon's Madeira River, whose basin extends some 2,000 miles from Bolivia to Brazil, with four of the five lowest river levels recorded in the past four years, said Marcus Suassuna Santos, a researcher with the Geological Survey of Brazil.

The Madeira's level at Porto Velho is the lowest since measurements began in 1967. Nearby, Brazil's fourth-largest hydroelectric dam, Santo Antonio plant, halted operations this week due to the lack of water. It's the first time that happened since it opened in 2012.

Further north, in the Negro River basin, a different pattern has emerged. The Amazon's main tributary has had seven of its largest floods in the past 11 years, with the worst in 2021. But the Negro River, too, is headed toward its lowest-ever water levels this year.

Brazil's government has created a task force to coordinate a response. Ministers of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's government visited Manaus on Tuesday. □

## UK Supreme Court weighs if it's lawful for Britain to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda

By Brian Melley  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — The British government's contentious policy to stem the flow of migrants faces one of its toughest challenges this week as the U.K. Supreme Court weighs whether it's lawful to send asylum-seekers to Rwanda.

The Conservative government is challenging a Court of Appeal ruling in June that said the policy intended to deter immigrants from risking their lives crossing the English Channel in small boats is unlawful because the East African country is not a safe

place to send them.

Three days of arguments are scheduled to begin Monday with the government arguing its policy is safe and lawyers for migrants from Vietnam, Syria, Iraq, Iran and Sudan contending it's unlawful and inhumane.

The hearing comes as much of Europe and the U.S. struggle with how best to cope with migrants seeking refuge from war, violence, oppression and a warming planet that has brought devastating drought and floods.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has vowed to "stop the boats"



**The Supreme Court entrance is photographed in London, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022. (AP Photo/Alberto Pezzali, File)**

as a top priority to curb unauthorized immigration. More than 25,000 people

are estimated to have arrived in the U.K. by boat as of Oct. 2, which is down

nearly 25% from the 33,000 that had made the crossing at the same time last year. The policy is intended to put a stop to the criminal gangs that ferry migrants across one of the world's busiest shipping lanes by making Britain an unattractive destination because of the likelihood of being given a one-way ticket to Rwanda. Consequences of the crossing have been deadly. In August, six migrants died and about 50 had to be rescued when their boat capsized after leaving the northern coast of France. In November 2021, 27 people died after their boat sank. □



# A surge in rail traffic on North Korea-Russia border suggests arms supply to Russia, think tank says

By Hyunjin Kim  
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— Recent satellite photos show a sharp increase in rail traffic along the North Korea-Russia border, indicating the North is supplying munitions to Russia, according to a U.S. think tank. Speculation about a possible North Korean plan to refill Russia's munition stores drained in its protracted war with Ukraine flared last month, when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites. Foreign officials suspect Kim is seeking sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in



**Russian President Vladimir Putin, right, and North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un shake hands during their meeting at the Vostochny cosmodrome outside the city of Tsiolkovsky, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) from the city of Blagoveshchensk in the far eastern Amur region, Russia, on Sept. 13, 2023. (Vladimir Smirnov, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP, File)**

return for the munition to boost his nuclear program. "Given that Kim and Putin discussed some military exchanges and cooperation

at their recent summit, the dramatic increase in rail traffic likely indicates North Korea's supply of arms and munitions to Russia," Be-

yond Parallel, a website run by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, said in a report Friday. "However, the extensive use of tarps to cover the shipping crates/containers and equipment makes it impossible to conclusively identify what is seen at the Tumangang Rail Facility" on the border, it said.

The report said satellite images as of Oct. 5 captured "a dramatic and unprecedented level of freight railcar traffic" at the Tuman-gang Rail Facility. It said images show approximately 73 railcars while a review of previous satellite images over the past five years

shows about 20 railcars at this facility at most.

U.S. and South Korean officials have warned that North Korea and Russia would face consequences if they went ahead with the reported weapons transfer deal in violation with U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban all weapons trade involving North Korea.

Since last year, the U.S. has accused North Korea of providing ammunition, artillery shells and rockets to Russia, likely much of them copies of Soviet-era munitions. South Korean officials said North Korean weapons provided to Russia had already been used in Ukraine. □

# Israel declares war and approves 'significant' steps to retaliate for surprise attack by Hamas

By Tia Goldenberg and Wafaa Shurafa

Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)

— The Israeli government formally declared war Sunday and gave the green light for "significant military steps" to retaliate against Hamas for its surprise attack from the Gaza Strip, portending greater fighting ahead as the toll from the conflict passed 900 dead and thousands wounded on both sides.

More than 24 hours after Hamas launched its unprecedented incursion out of Gaza, Israeli forces were still trying to crush the last groups of militant fighters holed up in several towns of southern Israel. At least 600 people have reportedly been killed in Israel — a staggering toll on a scale the country has not experienced in decades — and more than 300 have been killed in Gaza as Israeli airstrikes pound the territory.

Authorities were still trying to determine how many civilians and soldiers were seized by Hamas fighters during the mayhem and taken back to Gaza. From videos and witnesses, the

captives are known to include women, children, and the elderly.

As many as 1,000 Hamas fighters were involved in the assault, U.S. Secretary of State Andrew Blinken said on ABC's "This Week" — a high figure that underscored the extent of planning by the militant group ruling Gaza. The gunmen rampaged for hours, firing on civilians in towns, along highways and at a techno music festival being held in the desert near Gaza.

Civilians on both sides were already paying a high price.

A line of Israelis snaked outside a central Israel police station to supply DNA samples and other means that could help identify missing family members. Israeli TV news aired a stream of accounts from relatives of captive or missing Israelis who wept and begged for assistance and information.

In Gaza, the tiny enclave of 2.3 million people sealed off by an Israeli-Egyptian blockade for 16 years since the Hamas takeover, residents feared an intensified onslaught. Israeli



**A Palestinian child walks with a bicycle by the rubble of a building after it was hit by an Israeli airstrike, in Gaza City, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023. (AP Photo/Fatima Shbair)**

strikes flattened a number of residential buildings. More than 20,000 people who fled their homes crowded into schools run by the U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, UNWRA, the agency said. Several Israeli media outlets, citing rescue service officials, said at least 600 people have been killed in Israel, including 44 soldiers. The Gaza Health Ministry said 313 people, including 20 children, were killed in the territory. Some 2,000 people have been wounded on each side. An Israeli official said

security forces have killed 400 militants and captured dozens more.

An exchange of fire in northern Israel with the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah raised fears of a spread of the conflict. Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets and shells Sunday at three Israeli positions in a disputed area along the border, and the Israeli military fired back using armed drones. Two children were lightly wounded by broken glass on the Lebanese side, according to the nearby Marjayoun Hospital.

The Israeli military said the situation since was calm after the exchange.

Iranian-backed Hezbollah is estimated to have tens of thousands of rockets at its disposal. Since its brutal 2006 war with Israel, Hezbollah has stayed on the sidelines amid previous outbreaks of Israeli-Hamas fighting. But if destruction in Gaza escalates, it may feel pressure to intervene.

A major question was whether Israel will launch a ground assault into Gaza, a move that in the past has brought intensified casualties.

The declaration of war announced by Israel's Security Cabinet was largely symbolic, said Yohanan Plesner, the head of the Israel Democracy Institute, a local think tank. But it "demonstrates that the government thinks we are entering a more lengthy, intense and significant period of war."

Israel has carried out major military campaigns over the past four decades in Lebanon and Gaza that it portrayed as wars, but without a formal declaration. □





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## The district of Savaneta

### A quick history guide to the island's first capital

**(Oranjestad)—Before Oranjestad became the island nation's capital, Aruba's first capital was the district of Savaneta. Here is where the cultural identity of Aruba was born, and from where the rest of the island developed into what it is today.**

Savaneta is said to have been the first place where the Caquetio inhabitants first stepped foot on the island. Though there isn't hard evidence to back this up, but considering the legend of the Cacique Arua, it is believed that there were already movements on Aruba—and Savaneta—around 88 AD.

The Caquetios probably made their way to the island either from Venezuela, Colombia or other Caribbean islands in the region, but with good weather it was relatively easy for them to travel back and forth in their

canoes. So, since the Caquetios discovered the island, Aruba found her first form of civilization.

It wasn't until 1499 when Aruba met another group of people who set foot on the island: the Spanish explorer Alonso de Ojeda. De Ojeda first took notice of Aruba off the coast of Venezuela, during his exploration of the Latin American country. This was on August 9th, 1499. However, de Ojeda didn't actually sail to the island till 4 days later, on August 23rd, 1499. This was the beginning of the Spanish era on Aruba (1499-1636).

Alonso usually didn't stop at every island or land he saw, especially not in the Caribbean. He would often take notice of land from afar and continue sailing. However, Aruba was an exception. He had heard that there were "quebracho" trees on the island, which

were commonly used to produce dye or paint. But since these trees could not be found in Savaneta, he continued to search in the area of what is now known as Santa Cruz. The best way to transport the tree barks was via a route passing through Savaneta, and so the first road between Savaneta and Santa Cruz was made.

The Dutch colonial era (1636-1805) During the 80-year war between The Netherlands and Spain, Dutch explorers and merchants began to travel to the ABC islands. Once they landed in Aruba, they deported the small Arawakan and Spanish community that was living on the island. This was the beginning of colonization of the ABC islands by the Dutch empire. Around the same, the West Indian Company (WIC) was born. Bonaire and Curacao were mostly used for plantations, where the Dutch had transported slaves from Africa. Aruba, on the other hand, was mostly used to raise cattle and to house the haring factory. The Dutch had often forced the indigenous community to work for them. In 1636, when the Netherlands won the war against Spain, the country surrendered the islands to the Dutch.

The Dutch administration appointed the island's first commander, an Irish man named N. Williams. Because



the Dutch were interested in other Caribbean islands and countries in South America, they imported Dutch merchants and business men, all of whom resided in Savaneta. This way, Savaneta officially became the island's first capital.

However, at the end of the 18th century, the commander at the time, J.R. Lauffer, moved his office to what is now "Horse Bay" in Oranjestad. Because the highest office on the island moved away from Savaneta, the capital lost its title to what was called then Playa.



How Savaneta got its name The name Savaneta probably has a Spanish origin. It was said that when the Spanish climbed a hill called Yara, they saw that the area was mostly open and had no big trees. In Spanish, such a land area is called a "sabana".

Because of its land surface, Savaneta was a great place to construct cattle farms. From here, the farmer culture on Aruba was born. Before the Aruban Gold Rush and the construction of the Refinery in San Nicolas, most residents were farmers, and Savaneta had many inhabitants that farmed fruits and vegetables. They also continued the tradition of raising cattle, like goat, sheep, pigs and horses. Savaneta was one of the first places on the island to have a general farming culture. From this culture, many other traditions were born, like the Dera Gay Holiday that we celebrate every year on June 24th.

Source: Historia di Savaneta (History of Savaneta) by Adolf "Dufi" Kock.







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Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba presents an exclusive July sales special that will leave you longing for ownership. Throughout the month of July, Casa del Mar presents an exclusive and irresistible \$500 discount on any resort owned suite purchase, providing you with the perfect opportunity to own "your own piece of Aruba". This limited-time offer applies to both 1 bedroom suites (sleeps 4) and 2 bedroom suites (sleeps 6), accommodating every individual or family, seeking for their secured vacation destination. With recent renovations, Casa del Mar sets the standard for luxury and relaxation, ensuring that your experience is unparalleled. Starr Ramos, spokesperson for Casa del Mar, expressed their commitment to making luxury vacationing accessible and affordable, stating, "Casa del Mar offers an unparalleled and personalized experience, whether it's a romantic getaway or a spacious suite to accommodate a large family. CDM boasts amongst the most affordable maintenance fees in Aruba based on square footage, allowing you to enjoy your suite without breaking the bank. Transparent and affordable maintenance fees maximize your investment while minimizing costs, making Casa del Mar an exceptional value."

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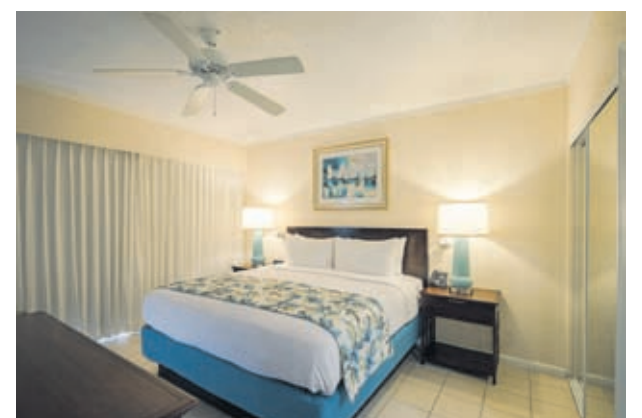
for accommodations or dealing with fluctuating rental prices and say hello to consistently exceptional vacation experiences. What sets Casa del Mar apart from traditional timeshares is its offering of lifelong ownership. Create a legacy of cherished vacations in Aruba by passing down your ownership to future generations, ensuring that your family can enjoy the beauty of this tropical paradise for years to come. In addition, the resort is currently renovating its Presidential Suites' bathrooms to provide an even more luxurious and relaxing experience. With elegant fixtures, spacious showers, and stunning accents, the bathrooms offer a truly indulgent retreat for owners and guests.

Casa del Mar's idyllic location on Eagle Beach, recently ranked as the number one beach in the Caribbean, offers pristine white sandy shores and crystal-clear turquoise waters. For those seeking flexibility, Casa Del Mar Beach Resort Aruba allows the exchange of vacation weeks through external programs. Due to its high exchange value, you can explore new destinations while maintaining the security and comfort of your home resort.

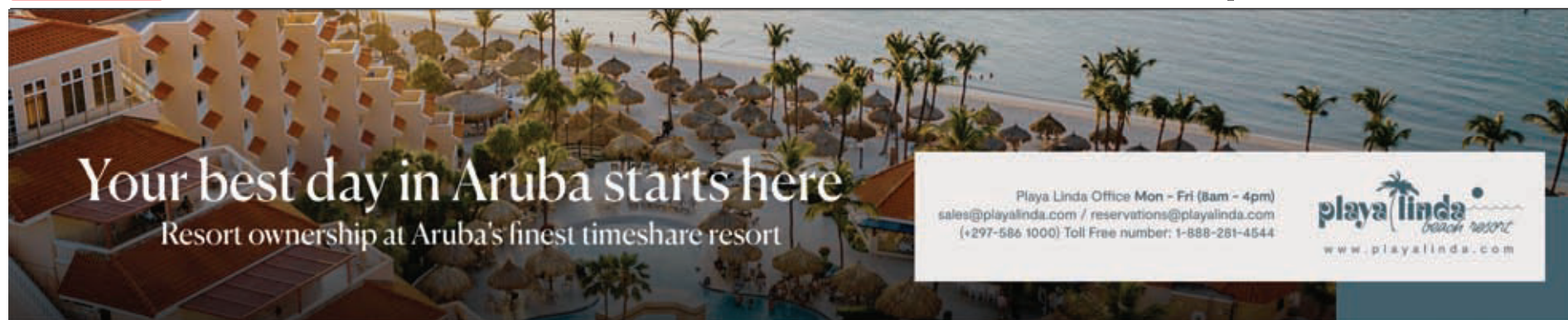
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### About Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba

Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba is a premier beachfront resort since 1986 and located at Aruba's stunning Eagle Beach. With 40 1-bedroom Ambassador suites and 107 two-bedroom Presidential Suites the resort offers luxurious spacious accommodations, world-class amenities, and a range of recreational activities for an unforgettable vacation experience. With a commitment to excellence, Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba provides exceptional service and continues to be a favorite destination for travelers from around the world. □







## Aruba Tourism Authority honors a loyal visitor at Divi Dutch Village

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing an Emerald Ambassador of Aruba. This Ambassador was respectfully honored with a certificate acknowledging her years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

### The three honoring levels are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

### The honoree was:

Emerald Ambassador Mrs. Joanne Trojak from Illinois, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Divi Dutch Village bestowed the Emerald Ambassador certificate to the honoree, presented her with gifts, and also thanked her for choosing Aruba as her favorite vacation destination, as her home away from home.

### Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by the honoree were:

Aruba's warm and friendly people who always treat her like family

Aruba's year-round sunny weather

Aruba's nice sandy beaches

"Aruba's variety of restaurants – they are all great!"

Aruba's Divi Resorts staff members

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honoree for her continued visits to the "One Happy Island".



## Aruba to me

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Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is ..... Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to

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## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

**(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic—but important—information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.**

### Emergency services

Even though most people don't even want to think about having to contact emergency services—especially not while on their vacation, it is still important to know what number to dial in case of the unlikely event of an accident or severe incident.

Police: 100  
Police Tipline: 11141  
Ambulance: 911

Fire Dept: 115  
Oranjestad: HOH hospital: +297-527-4000  
San Nicolas: ImSan: +297-527-8833

### Electrical power

Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of outlets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Drinking water

The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other

establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours

Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are

open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

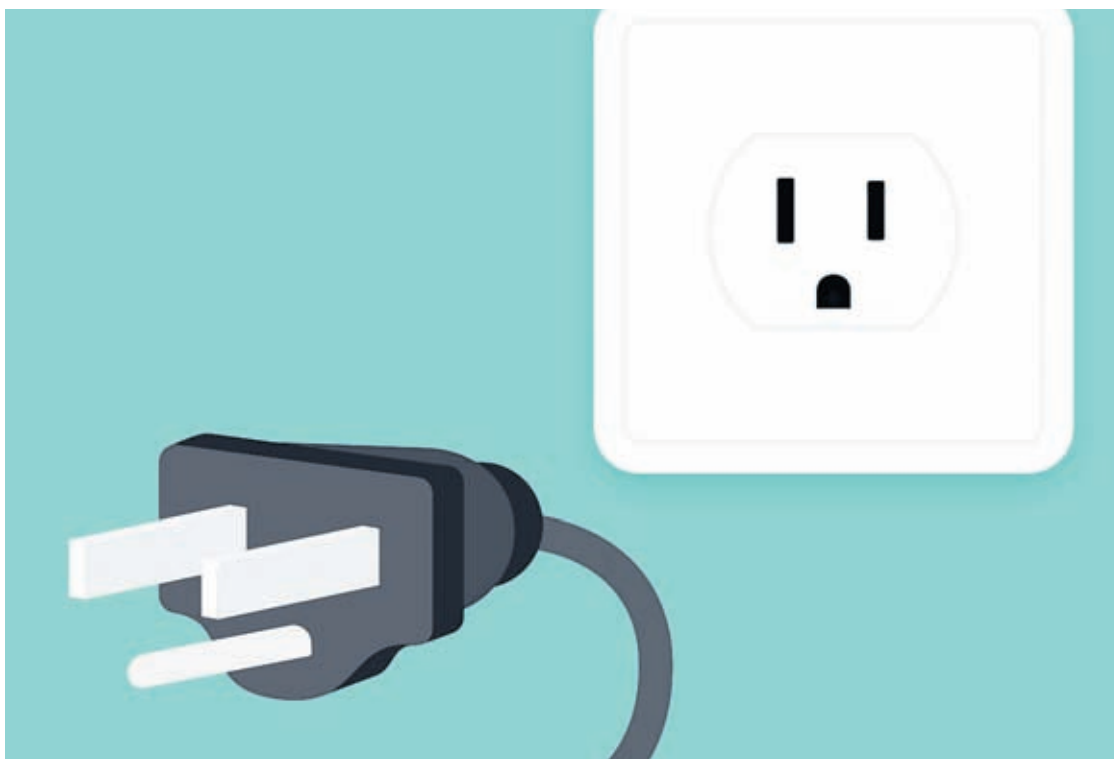
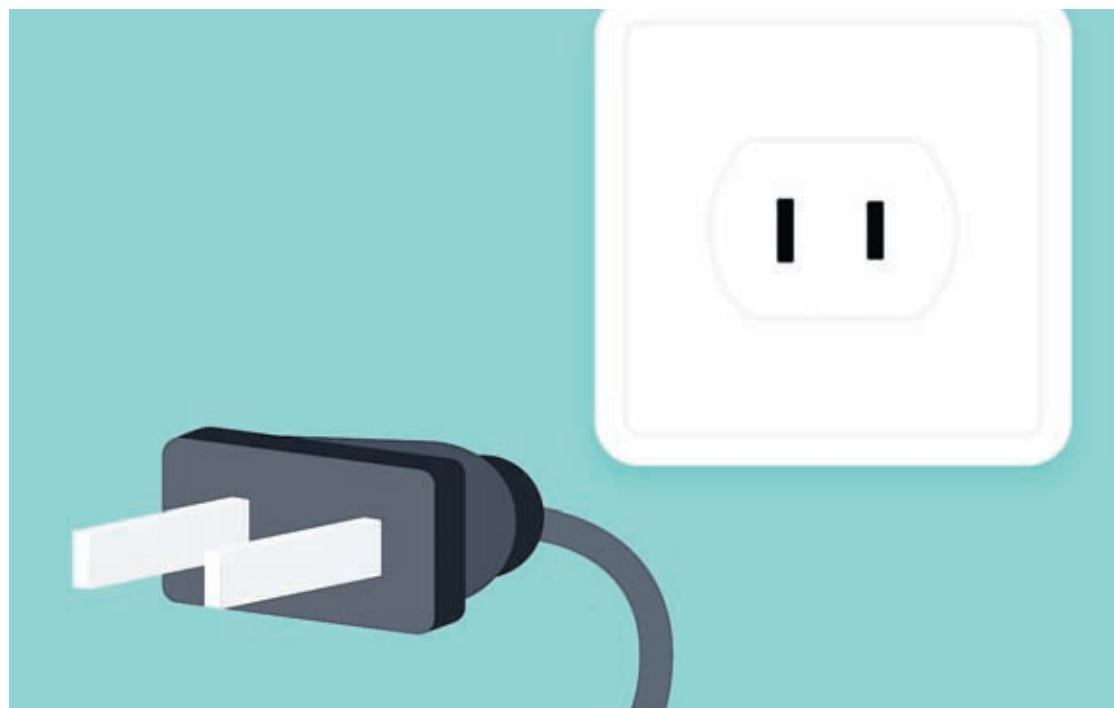
### Taxis

Prices for taxi fair are set by the Department of Public Traffic and are based on destination rather than mileage. Most taxis can take up to five passengers, but this may vary depending on the vehicle. Taxis are

pretty much always available and you can ever hire one for \$45 an hour.

### Safety

Aruba is one of the safest islands in the Caribbean, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.



## Asian Caribbean Impressions Menu

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# Don't forget to visit Aruba's famous Red Anchor

**At the south east coast of the island, standing alone on a windswept and barren land stands a popular Aruba landmark – a large anchor. It overlooks the sea just beyond, watching over the shipping lanes. It stands there in memory and in honor of all seamen who have lost their life at sea.**

## Where to Find the Anchor?

The anchor is a “must see” landmark when you visit Aruba. It is among the most photographed historical landmarks for the island. You want to make sure you add this stop on your itinerary when your visiting the south coast of Aruba. The bright red anchor against the backdrop of the deep blue Caribbean sea and the azure blue skies, make a great backdrop for your vacation pictures.

The anchor is located at the entrance to Gate 6 to the former Lago Colony. It is on the outskirts of Seroe Colorado, on the south east point of the island at the “T” junction to Baby Beach.

Depending on where you are staying on the island, follow the signs that indicate the way to Baby Beach. Once you reach the T-junction, it will be right in front of you.

## About the Anchor Size

It will be hard to miss the anchor, it's huge! The anchor that weighs 21,772 kilos, is approximately 10 feet 6 inches wide and 15 feet, 6 inches tall.

On the anchor there are some numbers. The 4112 and 4115, which are believed to be the serial numbers that refer to the “fluke” or horizontal and vertical parts of the anchor, respectively. The number 21772K refers to the weight of the anchor in kilos.

This type of anchor was manufactured by Hoesch Dortmund Horde, at a foundry located in Germany.

## Where did the Anchor Come From?

There are a number of stories as to the origins of the anchor, which one do you think it was? (Unfortunately the mystery has never been solved, so your imagination can pick which one you think it might be!)

## Story 1:

“According to Mr. Manuel M. Curiel, an ex-Lago Tug Captain, a fully laden VLCC (Very Large Crude Carrier) was seeking a mooring at the 15-mile anchorage, known as Bara, on the southern part of the island. This is the usual shallow

mooring location for ships awaiting orders, etc. The weather was rough with strong current. The normal procedure is that they would walk out three shackles (about 90 feet) until the anchor touches the bottom while the chain must rest on the bottom. Subsequently, they will walk out some extra shackles and when the ship starts to swing or lean on one side, the anchor is properly set. Because of the rough weather, unfortunately they did not get the time to walk out the extra tackles and because of the tension exerted on the winch, it broke, and they lost the anchor and its chain.”

## Story 2:

“Mr. Curiel also said that at one time a small tanker with a Korean crew, while lifting their anchor also lifted another anchor near the inner harbor. When the ship asked for assistance, he went with his tugboat along with a barge, to help. But eventually they had to cut the chain and let the anchor go to the bottom because they could not untangle them.”

## How Did The Anchor Become a Landmark?

Sometime between 1980 and 1985, three gentlemen (Mr. Wim Martinus – the Harbormaster of Aruba; Mr. August Genser – the ex-Division

Superintendent of Lago's Laboratory; and Mr. Willie Davis – Owner of Filtec at Zeewijk in San Nicolas), were having a conversation with Mr. Charlie Brouns Jr. at his famous Charlie's Bar and Restaurant in San Nicolas. Charlie, who was a visionary and had dreams for developing the San Nicolas area, told these gentlemen that he would like to come up with something innovative for the San Nicolas area to draw tourism to the area.

The “anchor”, which at that time was being stored at the Oranjestad harbor, was suggested as an option. Charlie liked the idea! He then contacted the President of Lago for permission to acquire the anchor. He was granted permission and the anchor was then relocated to its present location and dedicated “To All Seamen” on the occasion of the closing of the Lago Oil Refinery on March 31, 1985.

## Through the Years

Through the years the Anchor was slowly weathering from the wind and salt. As time passed, sadly the origin and purpose of the anchor slowly faded away from people's memories.

After Charles Brouns Jr died on September 15, 2004, his friend Mr. Sam Speziale, requested assistance

from the management of Valero Aruba Refinery to help maintain the monument. The Valero Aruba Refinery, graciously sandblasted and painted the anchor and poured a concrete pad around it. On April 17, 2005, the anchor monument was rededicated “To All Seamen” in a formal ceremony in memory of Charles Brouns Jr.

Today, the anchor stands both as memorial to all seaman who have lost their lives at sea, but also as a silent reminder that Seroe Colorado is part of San Nicolas and that San Nicolas is still a vibrant and important part of the island of Aruba.

## The Best Time to Visit

When your planning your visit to the south end of the island, you will want to include in your itinerary the many things to see and do there. The anchor will be just one of these stops, (keep an eye out for our future editions, we publish our recommendations!).

With that being said, I have to say, if you enjoy catching a sunrise, the anchor is one of the best places on the island to catch the sunrise. But in reality, anytime is a good time to visit, depending on your personal schedule. ☐



The Red Anchor situated at the entrance of former Lago Colony in San Nicolas



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS** 39 Lake near

1 Guinness of "Star Wars"

5 From Havana, say

10 Fancy auto

11 Sung dramas

13 Molecule part

14 Morphine, for one

15 Constantly changing

17 Sewing aid

18 Like amphitheaters

19 Director DuVernay

20 Mo. hours

21 Atkins of country music

22 Secret supply

25 Selected

26 Dull pain

27 That woman

28 Sgt., e.g.

29 Least decorated

33 Gumshoe

34 Capsize

35 Choice

37 Cap for de Gaulle

38 Go hungry

## DOWN

1 San Antonio mission

2 Illuminated

3 Ham it up

4 Southwestern people

5 "Settle down!"

6 Top

7 "— Mir Bist Du Schön"

8 Plains people

S	L	A	L	O	M		H	E	N	S
P	A	G	O	D	A		A	L	O	E
E	D	I	S	O	N		L	I	M	A
E	L	L	E	R		T	A	C	I	T
D	E	E	S		C	O	S	I	N	E
				I	R	A	N	T	E	D
	M	E	T	A	V	E	R	S	E	
S	A	X		Z	E	R	O			
E	D	I	T	O	R		B	A	S	S
P	E	T	E	R		C	O	M	I	C
T	I	R	E		M	A	T	U	R	E
I	R	O	N		A	R	I	S	E	N
C	A	W	S		R	E	C	E	N	T

Saturday's answer

9	Indig-	24	South-
	enous		eastern
	group		people
12	Capitol	25	Bloke
	group		
16	Head-	27	Small
	quarters		piano
21	South-	29	Kitchen
	eastern		appliance
22	people	30	Tennis
	poem		star Chris
23	Believes	31	Old photo
			tint
		32	Attempts
		36	Fury

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12					
13				14					
15				16			17		
18							19		
20						21			
22	23	24			25				
26				27					
28				29			30	31	32
33				34					
35			36			37			
38						39			
40						41			

10-9

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

## CRYPTOQUOTE

Z NQFQFTQN ZL OW YVLYTQN  
POBW ONQ OIOBW NQFQFTQNQP.  
VIYEPIQWW. FOJIQ-AIOHYNQP.  
LGQ OZN SYIP OMP WY VIQOM  
ZL UEZHQNW. — IQZA QMSQN

Saturday's Cryptoquote: NEVER JUMP IN A PILE OF LEAVES WITH A WET SUCKER. — LINUS. "IT'S THE GREAT PUMPKIN. CHARLIE BROWN"

## An app shows how ancient Greek sites looked thousands of years ago. It's a glimpse of future tech



A man holds up a tablet showing a digitally overlaid virtual reconstruction of the ancient Parthenon temple, at the Acropolis Hill in Athens, Greece on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

(AP Photo/Petros Giannakouris)

By Derek Gatopoulos and Theodora tongas

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) —

Tourists at the Acropolis this holiday season can witness the resolution of one of the world's most heated debates on cultural heritage. All they need is a smartphone.

Visitors can now pinch and zoom their way around the ancient Greek site, with a digital overlay showing how it once looked. That includes a collection of marble sculptures removed from the Parthenon more than 200 years ago that are now on display at the British Museum in London. Greece has demanded they be returned.

For now, an app supported by Greece's Culture Ministry allows visitors to point their phones at the Parthenon temple, and the sculptures housed in London

appear back on the monument as archaeologists believe they looked 2,500 years ago.

Other, less widely known features also appear: Many of the sculptures on the Acropolis were painted in striking colors. A statue of goddess Athena in the main chamber of the Parthenon also stood over a shallow pool of water.

The virtual restoration works anywhere and could spare some visitors the crowded uphill walk and long wait to see the iconic monuments up close. It might also help the country's campaign to make Greek cities year-round destinations.

Tourism, vital for the Greek economy, has roared back since the COVID-19 pandemic, even as wildfires chased visitors from the island of Rhodes and affected other areas this summer. The number of inbound visi-

tors from January through July was up 21.9% to 16.2 million compared with a year ago, according to the Bank of Greece. Revenue was up just over 20%, to 10.3 billion euros (\$10.8 billion).

The app, called "Chronos" after the mythological king of the Titans and Greek word for "time," uses augmented reality to place the ancient impression of the site onto the screen, matching the real-world view as you walk around.

AR is reaching consumers after a long wait and is set to affect a huge range of professional and leisure activities.

Medical surgery, military training and specialized machine repair as well as retail and live event experiences are all in the sights of big tech companies betting on a lucrative future in immersive services. Tech giant like Meta and Apple are pushing into VR headsets that can cost thousands of dollars.

The high price tag will keep the cellphone as the main AR delivery platform to consumers for some time, said Maria Engberg, co-author of the book "Reality Media" on augmented and virtual reality. □

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24/7



# From Coke floats to Cronuts, going viral can have a lasting effect on a small business

By Mae Anderson  
Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The Lexington Candy Shop in New York City has served burgers, fries and shakes to hungry patrons for decades. Last remodeled in 1948, the diner is the definition of old-fashioned.

But that hasn't stopped it from getting a wave of new fans.

In August 2022, this old school business met the new world when Nicolas Heller, a TikTok and Instagrammer with 1.2 million followers known as New York Nico, popped in for a traditional Coke float — Coke syrup, soda water and ice cream. Naturally, he took a video. It went viral, garnering 4.8 million likes.

"The next day (after the video was posted), the lines started forming at 8 in the morning," John Philis, the diner's third-generation co-owner, recalls with amazement. "And it was like, huh!"

When a smaller restaurant unexpectedly goes viral on TikTok or other social media, the sudden demand can be overwhelming. Owners have to adapt on the fly, revamping operations to quickly serve a crush of people. But savvy business owners who are able to adapt can parlay newfound fame into a lasting boost for their business. Ali Elreda opened Fatima's Grill in Downey, California, in 2016, drawing in customers with an eclectic range of tacos, wraps and burgers.

He sprinkled Flamin' Hot Cheetos in some of them, inspired by his daughter's love of hot chips. By 2020, Elreda had worked hard to develop his restaurant's social media presence, shooting videos with music. But after a TikTok dubbed @misohungry posted a video of Elreda's Flaming Hot Cheeto Fusion burger that August, things suddenly "just went crazy."

Lines to get into the restaurant ballooned to two to three hours — for months. At



**John Philis, a third-generation owner of the Lexington Candy Shop, prepares a Coke float at the luncheonette, Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, in New York.**

(AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

first, the store wasn't ready for the influx.

"We just couldn't adjust," he said. "We would stay late hours to prep for the next day and then the lines would continue and continue and continue and continue."

Opening two nearby restaurants helped relieve the pressure. Elreda now has 10 locations, including newly opened restaurants in Detroit and Brooklyn — an expansion started by one viral video.

"Social media can make you or break you," he said. "It catapulted us to starting to franchise and getting the name out there. It's been a blessing."

When Kevin Muccular opened Aunt Bill's soul food restaurant in Katy, Texas,

just last year, crowds were sparse at first because Katy is a suburb about half an hour outside of bustling Houston. That all changed when a TikTok who goes by Mr. Chimetime posted a video in July lavishing praise on Aunt Bill's brisket hot dog, waffles and customer service.

The floodgates opened and didn't stop.

"People poured in from everywhere, every seat taken, the lines, down the street and around the corner, a three, four-hour wait, wait time in line in the middle of the Texas summer," Muccular said.

He rushed to prepare food and put his vendors on standby, but the demand was overwhelming. He bought all of the

ingredients he could find at nearby Sam's Club and Walmart stores, and had friends check stores in their areas. The fire marshal was called twice about the crowd.

Muccular hired a consultant to help figure out how to revamp his business to serve the crowds in an efficient manner. Among the changes: He shifted walk up to-go orders to an online system and created a reservation system for tables.

Two months later, the restaurant is still bustling. The restaurant now serves 800 to 1,000 people a day, up from 200 to 250. Longer term, Muccular has plans to open a food truck to serve people all over Texas. At the Lexington Candy Shop, Philis thought the craze of last August would die down after Labor Day, or during the holidays. But a year later, the crowds are still going strong. □



## HEALTH

### DOCTOR ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad

Hospital 7:00 pm / 10:00pm  
Tel. 527 4000

#### San Nicolas

Imsan 24 hours  
Tel. 524 8833

### PHARMACY ON DUTY

#### Oranjestad:

Sta. Anna: Tel. 586 8181  
Seroe Preto: Tel. 584 4833

#### Women in Difficulties

### OTHER

Dental Clinic 587 9850  
Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
+297 588 0539

### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

### TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

### AID FOUNDATIONS

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Alcoholics Anonymous  
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous  
Tel. 583 8989

Fundacion Contra Violencia  
Relacional Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes  
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention  
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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# Terence Davies, filmmaker of the lyrical 'Distant Voices, Still Lives,' dies at the age of 77

By Jill Lawless  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — British filmmaker Terence Davies, best known for a pair of powerful, lyrical movies inspired by his childhood in postwar Liverpool, has died at the age of 77.

Davies' manager John Taylor said the director died "peacefully at home in his sleep" on Saturday after a short illness.

Raised in a large working-class Roman Catholic family in the English port city, Davies worked as a clerk in a shipping office and a bookkeeper in an accountancy firm before enrolling at a drama school in the city of Coventry and later the National Film School.

After making several short films, Davies made his feature debut as writer-director in 1988 with "Distant Voices, Still Lives," a dreamlike — sometimes nightmarish — collage of a film that evoked a childhood of poverty and violence leavened by music and movie magic. The film won the Cannes International Crit-



Director Terence Davies poses for portrait photographs at at the 2016 Berlinale Film Festival in Berlin, Sunday Feb. 14, 2016.

ics Prize in 1988, and in 2002 was voted the ninth-best film of the past 25 years by British film critics.

Davies followed it in 1992 with another autobiographical film, "The Long Day Closes," and later returned to Liverpool for a 2008 documentary, "Of

Time and the City."

Michael Koresky, author of a book on Davies; said the director's two autobiographical features "are melancholy, occasionally harrowing, and are also indescribably beautiful, two of the greatest works in all of cinema."

(AP Photo/Axel Schmidt, file)

"Arguably, he doesn't even have imitators; no one would dare," Koresky wrote on the British Film Institute website.

The autobiographical films opened the door to bigger budgets and more mainstream films, still showcasing Davies' distinctive

lyricism and often set in the 19th or early 20th centuries. His 1995 film "The Neon Bible" was based on a John Kennedy Toole novel and set in the U.S. Deep South. "The House of Mirth," released in 2000, starred Gillian Anderson in an adaptation of Edith Wharton's classic, and won the prize for best British Film at the 2001 British Academy Film Awards. His 2011 film "The Deep Blue Sea," based on a Terence Rattigan play. Starred Rachel Weisz as a woman torn between her dependable husband and feckless lover.

Model and actress Agyness Deyn starred in "Sunset Song," a hymn to rural Scotland released in 2015, and Davies depicted the life of poet Emily Dickinson — played by Cynthia Nixon — in the 2016 film "A Quiet Passion."

Davies' final film, "Benediction," was based on the life of World War I soldier and poet Siegfried Sassoon. It starred Jack Lowden, Peter Capaldi and the late Julian Sands. □



This court artist drawing by Elizabeth Cook shows Jaswant Singh Chail at the Old Bailey, London, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023.

(Elizabeth Cook/PA via AP)

By Brian Melley  
Associated Press

**LONDON (AP)** — A Star Wars fanatic who was encouraged by a chatbot "girlfriend" to assassinate Queen Elizabeth II was sentenced Thursday to nine years in prison for taking his plot to Windsor Castle, where he scaled the walls

and was caught with a loaded crossbow nearly two years ago.

"I'm here to kill the queen," Jaswant Singh Chail, wearing a metal mask inspired by the dark force in the science fiction and fantasy franchise, declared on Christmas Day in 2021 when a police officer on

## A man was encouraged by a chatbot to kill Queen Elizabeth II in 2021. He was sentenced to 9 years

the grounds of the castle asked, "Can I help, mate?" As a Sikh Indian, Chail wanted to kill the monarch to avenge the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre when British troops opened fire on thousands of Indians gathered in Amritsar and killed hundreds, a judge said in reciting the facts of the crime.

Chail said the assassination was his life's mission, something he'd thought about since adolescence, but had only shared with Sarai, the artificial intelligence-generated "girlfriend" he created on Replika, which bills itself as "the AI companion who cares. Always here to listen and talk. Always on your side."

Justice Nicholas Hilliard said

despite conflicting diagnoses from different experts, he concluded that Chail lost touch with reality and had become psychotic, but that the seriousness of the crimes required him to serve prison time. Chail will first be returned to Broadmoor Hospital, a secure psychiatric facility where he has been receiving treatment, and if deemed to be well enough in the future, he will serve the rest of his sentence in prison.

"The defendant harbored homicidal thoughts which he acted on before he became psychotic," Hilliard said. "His intention was not just to harm or alarm the sovereign — but to kill her." Chail had planned his attack for months.

In the hours before dawn, he sprayed himself with solution to mask a human scent and walked with his crossbow from a Windsor motel where he had been staying to the castle. He tossed a grappling hook over the wall and climbed over on a rope ladder.

When the officer carrying a stun gun encountered him, Chail said he intended to kill the queen, but he then dropped the lethal weapon and surrendered.

Chail, 21, pleaded guilty in February in London's Central Criminal Court to violating the Treason Act by having a loaded crossbow and intending to use it to injure the queen, possessing an offensive weapon and making threats to kill. □



## Another one for Biles: American superstar gymnast wins 22nd gold medal at world championships

By Samuel Petrequin  
Associated Press

**ANTWERP, Belgium (AP)** — Simone Biles's appetite for victory is insatiable.

The American superstar claimed a third gold medal at the 2023 gymnastics world championships on Sunday by winning the women's beam with a superb routine on the final day of the competition.

Biles oozed confidence throughout. She had no hesitation on her jumps and delivered controlled spins before dismounting in style, with just a small hop when landing. She earned a score of 14.800 points to win ahead of China's Zhou Yaqin by a margin of just 0.1 of a point. Rebeca Andrade of Brazil took the bronze medal.

In Antwerp, where she started her collection of 22 world titles 10 years ago, Biles has made a stunning return to the international stage. She also claimed a silver medal on vault after the sixth all-around title that made her the most decorated gymnast in history, male or female. And she led the U.S. women to a record seventh straight victory in the team event. Biles has won a record 36 medals at the world championships and Olympics. She will later have an opportunity to add another gold to her unmatched record in the floor exercise final.

Biles was competing at her first world championships since 2019 this week after a two-year break she used to focus on her mental health following the Tokyo Olympics. She only returned to competition this summer.

In the men's competition, Jake Jarman gave Britain its first medal by taking gold in the vault with a combined score of 15.050 points. Jarman started with a nearly flawless vault and was pumped after he landed a Dragulescu on his second effort, giving a big hug to his coach and

raising his arms in triumph. His total allowed him to leapfrog American Khoi Young by a margin of 0.201. Young's pair of vaults earned him a runner-up finish and a third medal this week to go with the bronze in the team event and silver on the pommel horse. Nazar Chepurnyi of Ukraine finished third.

Young grinned broadly after sticking his second vault and turned toward fans waving American flags, urging them to make more noise as cheers and applause erupted from the stands at the Sportpaleis venue. □



United States' Simone Biles competes on the beam during the apparatus finals at the Artistic Gymnastics World Championships in Antwerp, Belgium, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

(AP Photo/Geert vanden Wijngaert)



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Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

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### Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



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